

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 021055Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2332

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPCDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, JO, EG, XF

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN STRESSES COORDINATION IN INTERVIEW WITH
BEIRUT PAPERS

REF: BEIRUT 10404

1. SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS OF HUSSEIN INTERVIEW WITH
BEIRUT DAILIES BREAKS LITTLE NEW GROUND. HOWEVER IT PUTS EMPHASIS
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ON NECESSITY OF COORDINATION AMONG ARABS AND INCLUSION OF

JORDAN IN SUMMIT RATHER THAN ON CONTINUING DEBATE ON WHO REPRESENTS WHOM AMONG PALESTINIANS (EMPHASIZED IN BEIRUT PRESS ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW). END SUMMARY.

2. AS MENTIONED BY EMBASSY BEIRUT (REFTEL) KING HUSSEIN'S AL-HAYAT AND DAILY STAR INTERVIEW IS ESSENTIALLY RESTATEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED POSITION VIS-A-VIS PLO. LOCAL ACCOUNTS OF INTERVIEW IN SEMI-OFFICIAL AMMAN DAILIES APPEARING ONE DAY AFTER BEIRUT PUBLICATION, HOWEVER, TEND TO DOWNPLAY ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN FAVOR OF MORE GENERAL INSISTANCE ON COORDINATION IN UPCOMING SUMMIT.

3. SEMI-OFFICIAL AR-RAI AND AD-DUSTOUR HEADLINE HUSSEIN'S CALL FOR "COORDINATION AND HARMONY" AMONG ARAB BROTHERS. LEAD PARAGRAPHS OPEN WITH KING'S INSISTANCE THAT ARAB CONSULTATION IS FIRST STEP TOWARD SERVING ARAB INTERESTS, "NATURALLY INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PLO." KING THEN RECOUNTS HISTORY OF JORDAN PRESENCE ON WEST BANK, PLAYING UP FACT THAT GOJ HAS RECOGNIZED PLO SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN MID-1960'S. NEVERTHELESS, KING HUSSEIN REITERATED GOJ POSITION: "BUT JORDAN MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OCCUPIED LAND, WHICH ALL THE WORLD BELIEVES TO BE RIGHT... JORDAN DID NOT RECEIVE THE WEST BANK FROM THE PLO." FAMILIAR THEMES OF WEST BANKERS' RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND NECESSITY OF PRIOR ISRAELI PULLBACK FROM JORDAN RIVER ARE ALSO NOTED.

4. LOCAL ACCOUNTS ALSO MENTION KING'S STATEMENT JORDAN WILL NOT ATTEND ANY ARAB SUMMIT BILLED AS "TRIPARTITE," TO WHICH JORDAN MIGHT BE INVITED LATER, "BACUASE THIS WOULD TOUCH THE DIGNITY OF JORDAN. WE, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE CONFERENCE IS FOUR-SIDED OR IF MEETINGS THAT ARE NOT GIVEN THE NAME OF A "TRIPARTITE SUMMIT" ARE FOLLOWED BY A FOUR-SIDED CONFERENCE." KING THEN REAFFIRMS BELIEF THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE FROM POSITON OUTLINED IN ALEXANDRIA COMMUNIQUE.

5. KING'S AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT PLO AS "LEGAL" BUT NOT "SOLE" REP OF PALESTINIANS GIVEN LEAST PROMINENT COVERAGE IN AMMAN PRESS ACCOUNTS, IN CONTRAST TO PRIORITY EMPHASIS BY BEIRUT PRESS ON THIS ASPECT.

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6. COMMENT: SINGLE NEW ELEMENT APPEARS TO BE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF GIVE ON ATTENDANCE OF JORDAN AT QUADRILATERAL CONFERENCE WHICH FOLLOWS INFORMAL TRILATERAL GET-TOGETHER. THIS POSITION HOWEVER ECLIPSED BY WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE FOOT-DRAGGING BY BOTH PLO/EX COM AND SYRIA IN ATTENDING ANY TRILATERAL CONFERENCE, POSITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED IN AMMAN.
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